

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 18, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1-12 were pending and rejected claims 1-12. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1, 2 5-7 and 10-12 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to. In particular the Office asserts that drawings do not show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims or the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not show bellows of identical diameters.

The Applicant has cancelled claim 8.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure stands objected to for informalities. In particular, the Office states that the Specification does not contain section titles.

The Applicant has amended the Specification in compliance with the comments of the Office.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant has amended the claims to recite definite features.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suigari, U.S. Patent No. 4,852,891. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Suigari discusses a process for production by mold blowing, col. 3, line 55; "injection blow molding," (emphasis added) col. 1, line 12 through col. 1, line 66, or by mold blowing by extrusion, "extrusion mold blowing," col. 3, line 56. The mandrel that is used is a smooth, cylindrical mandrel, unthreaded, as Fig. 8 illustrates, and not a mandrel that has a helical threading. Only the inside cavity of the mold comprises grooves and not a helical threading. The deformation of the mandrel or tubular blank shown at 17 is operated by blowing to be applied against the inside wall of the molding cavity.

Therefore, at no time is it provided to equip the core as well as the inside cavity of the mold with helical threading and to initiate removal from the mold by unscrewing. On the contrary, when removal from the mold is specified, in particular col. 4, lines 10-15, the stage for removal from the mold is performed using air or a similar fluid, "*separated from the mold completely by means of air or the like. The molded article is cut at the position shown by dash-and-dot line C in FIG 9 or FIG 11 so as to obtain a boot.*"

For at least the reasons stated above, Suigari fails to disclose "casing (1) with bellows (2, 2A), with a hollow mold (5) and at least one core (4), each having at least one complementary helicoidal screw thread delimiting the molding space, and in demolding the formed casing (1) by relative unscrewing of the casing (1) and the core," as in claim 1.

However, in order to aid in prosecution, the Applicant further amends claim 1 to include the features of claims 3 and 4. The prior art of record fails to disclose "the largest cross-section of the core or cores (4) is arranged have a diameter less than or equal to the passage section of the securement section (3A) of largest dimension of the casing (1) with bellows (2, 2A), and the core or cores (4) and the body of the mold (5) have a truncated conical shape."

For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 and

the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Suigari.

Claims 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rice, U.S. Patent No. 2,432,803. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Rice discusses a sealing means comprising a boot made of a flexible lubricant resistant material having a wall formed with spiral grooves or spiral or corrugations.

The applicant has amended the claim to include the features of cancelled claim 9. The prior art of record fails to disclose "the bellows (2) are of progressive diameter inscribed within a truncated cone," as in amended claim 6. The Applicant has further amended the claim to recite "the casing comprises at least one region adapted to either to absorb a mechanical couple during unscrewing or permit a blocking in rotation." Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on page 7, lines 18-23 of the Specification. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment of claim 6. The prior art of record fails to disclose such a feature.

For at least the reasons discusses above, claim 6 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Rice.

As regards claim 10, the prior art of record fails to disclose "the tubular body of the casing is delimited over at least a portion of its length by an undulant or folded wall, each

fold corresponding to a bellows, the folds describing a helix of constant or variable pitch, preferably increasing in the direction of the securement section (3A) of largest size of the casing."

It is noted that the Office has made a general allegation that all claims 1-5 and 6-12 are anticipated by Suigari and Rice respectively. In the event that the Office maintains the rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office, in the interests of compact prosecution, identify on the record and with specificity sufficient to support a *prima facie* case of anticipation, where in the Suigari and Rice patents the subject features of independent claim 1 and 6 are alleged to be taught.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 103. It is also submitted that claims 1, 2 5-7 and 10-12 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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